

COMMUNICATION STUDIES 672/4

Seminar on International Communications

Lorna Roth BR-118/2 848-2562/482-4421
Winter/1994 BR-320 - Thursdays 6 - 9 p.m.

Office Hours:

Immediately before or after class or by appointment only. Please confirm by telephone.

Description of Course:

Deregulation and growing internationalization of contemporary communications and information systems have redrawn traditional lines separating national political (public), technological, and commercial (private) cultural spaces. In their places are new audio-visual landscapes which are linked to international co-operation and competition. The challenge for each political state is to develop a balance between the creation, distribution, exchange and protection of their cultural products.

This course will explore historical and current parameters of international communications within the global context. It will commence with an overview of development, cultural imperialism, and national sovereignty perspectives and move on to a closer examination of the Right to Communicate movement as it emerged in UNESCO's New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) debates (in the seventies) and as it has evolved outside of that arena in Third and Fourth World sites. Many illustrative materials (case studies, videos, film texts, photographsc, etc) will complement the theoretical readings and discussions.

Topics to be addressed include: key development and neo-colonial theories, cultural and media imperialism, the UN infrastructure, national sovereignty issues, cultural protectionism, globalization, international broadcasting (shortwave radio), the local and the global, the Right to Communicate debates, NWICO, the MacBride